



# MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor • Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor • Dennis Schrader, Secretary

## MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Beacon Health Options Transmittal #14**

**Laboratory Transmittal #70**

**Mental Health Services Transmittal #3**

**Nurse Practitioner Transmittals #21**

**Physician Transmittal #143**

**Physician Assistant Transmittal #3**

**Substance Use Disorder Transmittal #23**

**November 21, 2017**

TO: Beacon Health Options  
 Laboratories  
 Mental Health Providers  
 Nurse Practitioners  
 Physicians  
 Physician Assistants  
 Substance Use Disorder Providers

*Susan J. Tucker*

From: Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director  
 Office of Health Services

RE: Drug Testing Payment Charges

**NOTE: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal**

\*\*\*\*\*

Pursuant to COMAR 10.09.09.04, the Department has reviewed the drug testing classification panels and determined that simultaneous definitive testing for more than 14 drug classifications is not medically necessary. Accordingly, the Department is implementing two changes to Medicaid-covered laboratory services, impacting both presumptive and definitive drug testing.

First, after consultation with our clinical partners within the Behavioral Health Administration and Beacon Health Options, the Department determined that definitive testing for more than 14 drug classifications is not medically necessary for purposes of substance use testing.



Second, after reviewing the presumptive testing strategies, and based on feedback from providers, we added reimbursement for presumptive testing codes 80306 and 80307 when performed in a Provider's office. Currently these codes are only reimbursable when performed in formal laboratories. To use these presumptive codes, providers must have the appropriate state and federal approvals and the appropriate instruments. In addition, when billing the 80307 code, there should be no need for a corresponding definitive test performed by a send out laboratory beyond the G0480 definitive panel. Finally, the need for any formal laboratory definitive confirmatory testing using the G0480 code should be ordered only when clearly medically indicated.

Effective 1/1/2018, Medicaid will implement the following changes for claims submitted through the Department's Administrative Services Organization, Beacon Health Options:

For presumptive drug tests, coverage will include:

- 80305 (already covered for in-office testing) Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes; any number of devices or procedures, (e.g., immunoassay) capable of being read by direct optical observation only (e.g., dipsticks, cups, cards, cartridges), includes sample validation when performed, per date of service
- 80306 Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes; any number of devices or procedures, (e.g., immunoassay) read by instrument-assisted direct optical observation (e.g., dipsticks, cups, cards, cartridges), includes sample validation when performed, per date of service
- 80307 Drug test(s), presumptive, any number of drug classes; any number of devices or procedures by instrumented chemistry analyzers (e.g., immunoassay, enzyme assay, TOF, MALDI, LDTD, DESI, DART, GHPC, GC mass spectrometry), includes sample validation when performed, per date of service.

For definitive tests, only reimbursable to laboratories, coverage will include:

- G0480: Per day, 1-7 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed; and
- G0481: Per day, 8-14 drug class(es), including metabolite(s) if performed.

Finally, the Department reminds providers to incorporate ASAM's "Smart Testing" guidelines and best practices for drug testing, available at: [https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/quality-science/appropriate\\_use\\_of\\_drug\\_testing\\_in\\_clinical-1-\(7\).pdf?sfvrsn=2](https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/quality-science/appropriate_use_of_drug_testing_in_clinical-1-(7).pdf?sfvrsn=2)

Beacon Health Options will offer trainings on these guidelines in the coming weeks.